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ALLEN - SCOTT REPORT

Inside Washington

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New Look at Red Threat

WASHINGTON — President Johnson's foreign policy advisers are urging him to make a sweeping reappraisal of policies to deal with what they describe as "the increase of Red China's power in Asia and the potential spread of nuclear weapons."

Headed by Secretaries Rusk and McNamara and UN Ambassador Goldberg, the policy formulators are calling for a critical assessment of military alliances in both West and East, including revising NATO as one of the first steps toward greater Soviet-Western cooperation.

In some of the boldest and most controversial proposals to be made in the White House in recent years, this group, which includes Ambassador-at-Large Llewellyn Thompson, Undersecretary George Ball and Dr. Walt Rostow, chairman of the State Department's Policy Planning Council, wants the President through either negotiations or military action to curb Peiping's capabilities to produce nuclear weapons and wage "wars of liberation."

NUCLEAR THREAT

They warn that while Red China's immediate intentions in Southeast Asia might be a matter for debate, it is certain Peiping, within five years, will have the potentiality to upset the strategic balance of the world through "nuclear blackmail."

Moreover, if the growth of Communist China as a nuclear military power increases the uncontrolled spread of such weapons throughout the world, the danger of nuclear war would immensely intensify.

In one backstage briefing of a small handpicked group, Secretary Rusk warned that Red China is preparing its third nuclear blast in "a matter of weeks," and is scheduled to produce its first H-bomb by the end of 1966.

Aldes of Rusk indicated, at the briefing, that this information came from "sources on the China mainland" through diplomatic channels.

Veteran CIA authorities, who obtained the same information, are cautioning that it emanated from "known Communists" — a fact Rusk's assistants did not mention.

NEW PARTNERS

The crucial question the President's advisers are posing is forming a secret alliance with Russia to use a "carrot and stick" policy on Peiping to restrain what they call a "nervous and undernourished dragon."

According to their position papers, the first step for the U.S. might be to accept what they refer to as "the realities of Chinese power and draw or force the Peiping government into international negotiations."

The rating of Communist China and the spread of nuclear weapons, rather than Russia, as the principal problem facing the U.S. is being opposed by military, intelligence and congressional advisers of the President.

This group, which includes CIA Director Raborn, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Speaker John McCormack, D-Mass., and Sens. Richard Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Thomas Dodd, D-Conn., is cautioning against a secret alliance with the Kremlin on the ground it is still Moscow policy to "destroy the U.S."

BOTTOMLESS PIT

These officials warn that involvement in a war on the China mainland could be a Soviet trap to lure U.S. military manpower into an abyss while freeing the Kremlin to wage "wars of liberation in Africa and Latin America."

These advisers have pointed out that despite their public denunciations of each other, Peiping and Moscow are supplying arms to North Viet Nam and advising Hanoi on how to combat American forces in South Viet Nam.

If a deep split really existed between Peiping and Moscow, they stress, the U.S. could stand on the sideline and encourage the two Communist powers to go after each other rather than side with one or the other.

COMING BATTLE

As the Viet Nam conflict continues, this sharp dispute between the two groups of powerful presidential advisers is very likely to intensify.

The Raborn-Joint Chiefs-Russell-Dodd-McCormack group favors a tougher policy in Viet Nam, including a naval blockade if necessary—to bring Hanoi to the conference table.

The Rusk-McNamara-Goldberg-Thompson-Ball-Rostow faction is suggesting the need for a "controlled confrontation" with Communist China whether it be at the conference table or on the battlefield, and even if it means making concessions to Hanoi and Moscow on Viet Nam.

They are asking President Johnson to "trust" Russia to help bring this off, although the Soviet leaders are incessantly telling the world the U.S. is the aggressor in Viet Nam.

The growing rift between these presidential advisers leaves the President with merely the same decision on Communist China that confronted President Kennedy a few weeks before he was assassinated.

The cast of advisers, with a few exceptions, is the same, but there is a different man sitting in the White House. His decision on what to do about Red China is the most fateful the American people.

Barret Chase Smith, R-Maine, has finally won a seat on the important armed services subcommittee which polices the Central Intelligence Agency's operations.

Sen. Richard Russell, D-Ga., chairman, moved Mrs. Smith to the key subcommittee on the recommendation of Sen. Leverett Saltonstall, R-Mass., who has announced his retirement from the Senate.

Russell took this unannounced action after Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., declared his intention to seek an investigation of the CIA.

NOTE: The boxed portions of this article did not appear in the 2 February issue of the NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUN.

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